

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 106 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

February 2021

State of the Borough – Good Financials Help Fund Projects

Steadily Checking Off Infrastructure Improvements



RANDY MILLER
Borough Manager

Financially, Orwigsburg Borough finished 2020 operations in the “black.” Expenditures were under budget and receipts exceeded budget projections in all accounts – General Fund, Water, Sewer, and Sanitation. These savings were transferred to reserves to help fund future needs and planned projects.

In 2020, the Borough completed these major projects:

- Marshall, Eisenhower, Ridge Stormwater – \$135,333

- Ridgeview Stormwater & Street Paving – \$157,017
- Long Avenue Stormwater Swale – \$20,150
- Straub Ave. & Mifflin St. Stormwater – \$9,669
- Blinking Light Pole Replaced – \$26,975
- Traffic Striping & Pedestrian Markings – \$2,637
- Haul & Place Paving in various locations – \$10,882
- Crack Sealing – \$8,649

2021 projects planned

As we all deal with and progress through this COVID pandemic, the Borough continues to operate and work on infrastructure. In 2021, the Borough will continue to work on a number of projects to repair buildings and infrastructure.

- Already, a sewer line replacement project has started. This project will replace sewer lines from the intersection of West Mifflin Street and Long Avenue to North Warren Street. Additionally, while completing this installation, we will be looking for inflow of stormwater (rainwater and/or creek flow) into the sanitary sewers.

- Borough Hall will get a “face-lift,” beginning with the north and west sides of the building.

- Correcting stormwater and culvert issues, begun in 2020, on Long Avenue will be continued.

- Storm water infrastructure needs will also be worked this year with a number of repairs planned in various areas of the Borough. These, along with street repairs will be either accomplished by our Borough maintenance department (for smaller jobs) or scheduled and bid-out through the Liquid Fuels funding process.

- The final determination of the RACP grant for the Veterans Community Memorial Hall reconstruction

– Continued on page 2

2021 EVENTS

Listed are the planned community events that have been scheduled at this time. Changes to COVID-19 precautions/restrictions could alter this information.

Orwigsburg Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt at Albright’s Woods Community Park, Saturday, March 27, noon.

Fisher’s Dam Youth Fishing Rodeo at Fisher’s Dam on So. Washington St. Date is T/B/A beginning at 9 a.m.

Memorial Day parade/service and Lions Club Chicken Barbecue – Monday, May 31; activities begin 8 a.m.

Garden Tour & Tea – Date T/B/A; Hosted by the Orwigsburg Historical Society

Square Time – June Jamboree – Date T/B/A



Farm-To-Square – Thurs., Aug. 12

5 to 8 p.m. Featuring local farm market goods, wineries, breweries, local restaurants, live music, and more.

Orwigsburg Heritage Day – Saturday, Sept. 11; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Orwigsburg Halloween Parade – Wed., Oct. 27; 7 p.m.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat – Sun., Oct. 31; 6 to 8 p.m.
(Raindate is Mon., Nov. 1; 6 to 8 p.m.)

Orwigsburg Holly Trail and Festival of Lights
Saturday, Dec. 4; noon and 4:30 p.m.

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2021 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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OFFICIALS

Mayor..... Barry Berger
Council President..... Richard Bubeck
Council Vice President..... Rodney Schaeffer
Borough Manager..... Randall P. Miller
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak
Solicitor..... Paul Datte, Esq.
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Entech Engineering, Inc.
Alfred Benesch & Company
Fire Chief..... Jesse Zimmerman

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Madeline Bartush • Katie Bedway
Kerry Mariano
Angela Hoptak-Solga • Brock Stein

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Emergency..... Dial 9-1-1
Non-emergency..... 570-366-3101
John Koury, Chief
Brandon Bayer • Robert Bechtel
Bryce Lewis • Patrick McBreen • Tanner Noecker

STREET DEPARTMENT

Slade Bugajinsky • Devin Deibert
Shawn Reichart

WATER AND WASTEWATER

David Teter

BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Due to COVID-19 precautions and until further notice, Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. “remotely” via Zoom on the Internet. The meeting agenda will be posted on the Borough website by noon the day of the meeting. Members of the public may view the proceedings. Request a link to the meeting by emailing rmiller@orwigsburg.gov prior to noon the day of the meeting.

OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Orwigsburg Borough offices and services will be closed in observance of the stated holidays in 2021 – New Year’s Day, Jan. 1; Presidents Day, Feb. 15; Good Friday, April 2; Memorial Day, May 31; Independence Day, July 5 (observed); Labor Day, Sept. 6; Veterans’ Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 25 and 26; Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 23 and 24 (observed); New Year’s Eve and Day, Dec. 30 and 31 (observed).

State of the Borough

– Continued from Page 1

tion is progressing. A “notice to proceed” is expected soon. A more complete explanation of this project and its grant process can be found on Pages 8 and 9 of this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*.

- The application to gain Appalachia grant funds to refurbish Industrial Drive and Long Avenue is in the final approval process. ARRO Engineering has done a fantastic job bringing the Borough’s application through the evaluation process. Ideally, this project can be started this year.

- Repair of North Street – and resolving that area’s stormwater issues – is on the calendar for 2021 work.

- A review, with updating, of the Borough’s Comprehensive Plan is also in the works.

The Borough has reserve funds available for accomplishing this work. That, coupled with 2021 budgeted expenditures in the General Fund and expected Liquid Fuels allocation, we expect a substantial amount of infrastructure can be repaired.

New housing brings revenue increases

The Blue Mountain Village, slated for development on East Market Street, is currently in front of the Planning Commission. The Borough settled the lawsuit brought by the developer. As part of that settlement, the number of units to be built was reduced to 324.

Additionally, the developer agreed to have the closest units to existing homes built as Townhouses. This change converted a significant number of condominium spaces to 36 townhome units arranged in three buildings. There might be signs of development later this year with positive impact to Borough revenues felt in 2022 through additional property tax revenue and Earned Income Tax (EIT). Water and sewer revenue from this development will also increase.

Funding of future projects

With General Fund, Water and Sewer revenue outpacing expenditures in 2020, these excess funds were transferred to their respective reserves.

Bond re-financing was completed in 2020, yielding a savings that was front loaded into the next 5-years debt payments.

Borough engineering is in the early stages of a major Sewer Plant upgrade. This project will fix and repair current issues at the plant and upgrade operations to the newest requirements that DEP may be imposing in the near future.

In addition, repairs and upgrades to the sanitary sewer collection system will help to eliminate inflow from stormwater, having a positive trickle-down impact on sewer plant operations.

Council still meeting “virtually”

Borough Council meets once each month at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday. At present, these meetings are held via Zoom. Hopefully, as the vaccine reaches additional populations, the meetings can then be moved back to in-person, in council chambers.

– Randy Miller, Borough Manager

The Law Office of Williamson, Friedberg, & Jones Welcomes Attorney James Deiter

Attorney James R. Deiter joined the law firm of Williamson, Friedberg & Jones as an Associate Attorney. His primary areas of practice are **Business Law, Corporate Law, Commercial Litigation, Civil Litigation, Municipal Law, Real Estate Law, and Personal Injury Law.**

Attorney Deiter graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Finance from Widener University. He earned his Juris Doctor from Penn State Law in University Park, PA. Throughout his time in school, Attorney Deiter worked in various roles including a financial role with TE Connectivity and as a summer associate with Williamson, Friedberg & Jones. He also served as President of the Corporate Law Society and as a mentor for the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society while at Penn State Law. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Attorney Deiter was born and raised in Dauphin and Schuylkill Counties. He is a graduate of Williams Valley High School. A lifelong member of the community, he is the son of Mr. James A. Deiter, III and Mrs. Abigail Emswiler and the stepson of Jamie Deiter and Todd Emswiler. Attorney Deiter resides in Hegins with his wife, Brittany.



ATTORNEY JAMES R. DEITER



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Orwigsburg Police Department

Incidents Are Down; But, Our Gratitude Is Up!

The year 2020 was one of great challenge for all people and, certainly, a weird year for the Orwigsburg Police Department.

The state shutdowns from March to June affected our department in multiple ways. Scheduled training was cancelled by the host organizations. To reduce our contact, civilians were not allowed in our station and a number of our investigations were prolonged.

On the bright side, we were able to assist senior citizens and residents in higher risk categories by offering to grocery shop or pickup prescriptions. Our department was even featured on WBRE, spotlighting these efforts to help the community!

When we thought we might make it out of the year unscathed, four out of six officers contracted COVID in late December, though likely not all from each other. By mid-January, all officers made complete recoveries and were back to work.

Getting down to brass tacks, just how exactly did the pandemic affect the OPD's reporting statistics. We ended 2020 with 2,943 incidents (down from 3,176 for all of 2019). Of this total, 142 were reportable crimes, an increase from 137 in 2019.

So, while our incidents were down, the Borough crime rate generally stayed consistent. Way back in March 2020, Governor Wolf closed all non-life-sustaining businesses and issued a stay-at-home order

for the state. During this time, you probably noticed more people taking walks and less traffic on the road. That's directly reflected in the number of citations and warnings our department issued.

In 2020, we issued 236 traffic citations and 513 warnings. This number is a dramatic drop from 399 traffic citations and 822 warnings in 2019. In addition to the decreased volume of traffic for roughly 3-1/2 months, our officers tried to limit contact with drivers for everyone's safety. That's not to say we didn't make any traffic stops; we simply used greater discretion in who we stopped and why.

Body camera usage delayed

There was one noteworthy advancement in our department during 2020. In previous issues of Orwigsburg Happenings, it was reported that OPD would be receiving body cameras and hoped to have them in service by the end of 2020.

While we are happy to report we've received them, we are currently waiting on a technician from the camera company to come and install the associated hardware/software. The delay is due to the pandemic in addition to the amount of police departments nationwide who are implementing body cameras. We hope to have the body cameras in service sometime this spring.

Thank you to our community

Lastly, the officers of the Orwigsburg Police Department thank anyone and everyone who donated or helped us in any way throughout 2020. There was about a two-month stretch where multiple times a week we were brought cookies, pizzas, lunches, coffee, and gift cards. In addition, people and businesses donated masks and hand sanitizer at a time when both items were in short supply.

Donations of all types continued to roll in through the end of the year. The list of items and those who donated to us is too long to list here and we would fear leaving someone out. Suffice it to say, you know who you are and to you the Orwigsburg Police Department says, "THANK YOU!"

- Officer Robert Bechtel, Orwigsburg Police

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Tree Planting Initiative to Enhance Centre Square

Expertise, Equipment & Partnerships Make It Happen

What do Orwigsburg Borough, a business organization, and a retired forester from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry have in common? Each has a strong desire to enhance the attractiveness of Orwigsburg's Centre Square. Collectively, they're making it happen!



In time for dedication on Arbor Day (April 30), three "Exclamation London Plane" trees will be planted in early April within the two center grass plots – two specimens on the western block and one on the eastern block of Market Street.

Additionally, a Ruby Slippers Maple and a Hotwings Maple are proposed for planting on the north and south sides of Market Street adjacent to private property. Because approvals must be gained

from the property owners and a private contractor used to cut and repair the sidewalks during the planting, these may get done at a later date.

Local talent partnership explained

Resident Frank Snyder has the expertise! He is

a retired service forester from the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, having served Schuylkill and Carbon counties. He is an arborist and a director on the Schuylkill County Conservancy board. The tree species chosen are recommended "street trees" with good tolerance to nature's changes and are disease resistance. Their seasonal color changes are considered desirable.

Frank prepared the specifications and cost estimate for the work. The Borough gave its approval. The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association approved the expenditure of \$1,470 to fund the effort.

The London Plane variety species chosen for the Centre Square grass plots will grow to a 55-foot height, providing for a 35-foot wide canopy spreading partially over both the east and west traffic lanes. The trees have an upright-pyramidal form with a strong central trunk. A deciduous tree, the large leaves change to yellow and then brown in the fall. Interesting bark is peeling revealing a mottled pattern of green, yellow, and brown.

Both maple varieties will grow to 20 feet high with a 20-foot canopy.

A number of years ago, Frank and other members of the Conservancy created and documented a "tree inventory" (detailing species, dimensions, condition, etc.) of every tree along the public thoroughfare within the Borough. Frank was also a volunteer consultant recommending tree removals and overseeing replacements on the recent South Warren and South Wayne street reconstructions. Annually, he helps and advises the Borough maintenance crew on pruning needs of young trees.

Orwigsburg Borough has the equipment, manpower, and authority to remove diseased or undesirable trees and to plant new ones.

The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association (OBPA) has the desire and reaps the benefit of a vibrant, pretty community that residents, visitors, and shoppers are attracted to its marketplace.



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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

COVID Pandemic Has Delayed Veterans Hall of Honor Completion

\$750K Grant “OK” Slowed; Additional Funds Needed

The Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce remains focused on working with the Borough of Orwigsburg for the completion of the Veterans Community Memorial Hall renovation.

The project continues to have a dual funding stream – community fundraising through donations/gifts and government grants. The most recent successful grant was the 2018 approval by Governor Wolf through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

The Borough of Orwigsburg and the Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce thanks PA Rep. Jerry Knowles, 124th Legislative District, for his leadership and strong advocacy of the RACP submittal. State Senator Dave Argall and former members of our Schuylkill County state-level delegation, Rep. Neal Goodman and Rep. Mike Tobash, were all instrumental in the success of obtaining this grant.

The RACP grant process was extremely competitive. This collaborative effort is greatly appreciated for the benefit of all in the Orwigsburg community as completion of the Veterans Community Memorial Hall renovations is in sight.

The grant application was submitted in the amount of \$835,961 in February of 2018 in a second-round submittal process and was approved by Governor Wolf on September 11 of that same year in the amount of \$750,000.

As required following approval, a business plan was successfully submitted in March of 2019. Alfred Benesch and Company, through Christopher Bentz, P.E., was the lead agency for implementation, planning, bidding, awarding and construction. Orwigsburg Borough held administrative and operational authority.

As required in the RACP process, the Commonwealth of PA assigned a consultant to perform an in-depth and on-site review of the plans for the project – including financing, design and construction – while assuring key compliance guidelines are met and eventually drafting the project’s grant agreement. Eric Simons, project director and associate for Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., was assigned by the State.

This process required an edited scope of work by taking out numerous initially submitted items, including audio/visual work, due to RACP eligible requirements. Other eligible elements, including the hall’s interior finish work, were added. This exchange was approved by the Taskforce in conjunction with the Borough of Orwigsburg at the Taskforce October 2019 meeting, using the expertise of Chris Bentz and

Borough Manager Randy Miller.

This collaborative decision was important to assure the maximization of the approved RACP grant and utilization of the locally-raised Taskforce funds.



The finalized “as-is” appraisal and revised budget to the RACP reviewing engineer (Eric Simons) was submitted in November 2019. The Borough was then required to get interim financing for the construction that will later be reimbursed by the RACP grant monies, after project approval. This was arranged in December 2019.

Simons, in January 2020, recognized the revised RACP appraisal, the interim financing and the revised scope of work and indicated acceptability, including the Veterans Foyer interior improvements.

Simultaneously and using Taskforce raised funds, the TMT Design Group was approved and commissioned to provide consultative services, following its initial concepts to design Phase 2 and Phase 3 to establish a Veterans Foyer-Hall of Honor work schedule and updated cost estimates. These will ultimately be used to renovate the Veterans Foyer and to create construction bid documents.

This led to a combined effort by the Borough of Orwigsburg and the Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce to submit the RDA Forms required in the grant process providing the PA Office of Budget with the complete and budgeted RACP revised scope.

COVID pandemic slows the process

Stantec and its associate, Eric Simons, confirmed in April 2020 that the Orwigsburg Borough RACP application was in the PA Office of Budget; but, that office personnel were working remotely during the coronavirus pandemic, the process would take longer.

In short, due to the pandemic and how the State government was working, the process has been affected. Our reviewer continued to have bi-weekly emails or calls with the State regarding all the RACP projects assigned to him as reviewer.

Rep. Jerry Knowles, who along with other state legislators championed this RACP, was asked to reach out to the State advocating for our RACP process advancement, knowing that the pandemic had added to an already somewhat cumbersome government process.

It was clarified that once the PA Office of Budget completed its review, the PA State Department would issue the RACP agreement. Once the official signed agreement was received, the bid documents could be prepared and ready to issue within 4-6 weeks.

Veterans Community Memorial Hall

In December 2020, Benesch & Company reported to Orwigsburg Borough Council that RACP Administrator Holli Reidlinger emailed the firm, indicating the RACP was still under review and asking the Borough to bear with them. Benesch also received a call from Stantec's Eric Simons, stating he was receiving routine questions from the Office of Budget (OB). Benesch reported receiving formal OB review and approval of the submitted RACP "In Theory Scope."

Per Benesch, represented by Chris Bentz, the next step is for Stantec to complete its Application Review Report and send it to the Office of Budget that will then draft the project grant and send it to the grantee - Borough of Orwigsburg - for signature. This, then, starts the final signature process by various Commonwealth of PA agencies giving approval for a fully executed grant. Upon receipt of the fully executed grant agreement, the project can be bid, minimizing any risk that would occur if proceeding before the fully executed grant is received.

The Borough of Orwigsburg remains hopeful that the spring/summer of 2021 will bring us the fully executed grant agreement allowing the Borough to go to project bid.

The Taskforce and Borough always understood the bureaucratic nature of the RACP grant process. Clearly, the pandemic and its effect on the State review and approval process has delayed the ongoing review. We remain confident that the RACP process

remains intact and is proceeding to a fully executed grant.

The efforts by the Borough and Taskforce have required patience since the two processes are intertwined to assure all submitted aspects of the RACP are deemed eligible expenses, the maximum number of desired renovation elements are approved and achieved, and that the Taskforce funds can be appropriated to complete the remainder of the project elements not authorized in the RACP process.

Because these delays and the likelihood that, due to the pandemic, some project costs will change, the Taskforce is still seeking additional contributions to bring the project to a successful completion. All contributions of any size will be graciously accepted.

Contributors can send contributions to: Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce, P.O. Box 157, Orwigsburg, PA 17961. The Taskforce and the Borough are committed to providing a completed community gathering place in honor and appreciation of our Veterans.

The Veterans Community Memorial Hall has always been a special centerpiece of the greater Orwigsburg area, and now will serve the youth and adults of our community for many decades to come. Your recognition of this cherished building and ongoing community support is greatly appreciated.

**- Robert S. Carl, Jr., President
Veterans Memorial Development Taskforce**



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Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

The Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA) has elected its 2021 Board of Directors, officers of its Executive Board, and announces its calendar of 2021 community events with exciting, entertaining and affordable activities for residents and visitors of all ages.

2021 Board of Directors

OBPA Executive Board Officers elected during January's reorganization are: President, Stephen Goodale (KG Projections, Inc.); Vice President, Steward Warner (pastor of Salem UM Church); Treasurer, Jen Pyzowski (M&T Bank); Secretary, Pam Fessler (Mid Penn Bank); and Past (acting) President, Liz Brensinger (Friendship Hose Co.).

Additionally, General Board of Directors members are; David Teter (Orwigsburg Borough), Attorney Ben Forbes (Williamson, Friedburg & Jones law offices), Tracy Schatz (Elite Travel Journeys), and Bill Knecht (South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing).

Knecht holds responsibility as OBPA's Membership Chair; Tracy Schatz and Stephen Goodale are co-chairs of the Events Committee.

Square Time activities aplenty

Square Time is a time of celebration, sponsored and coordinated by OBPA, for residents and visitors.



All festivities in the 10th annual schedule will be held on or about the OBPA Community/M&T Bank lot at the center of our beautiful town square. Square Time showcases local businesses, area performers, food trucks and unique vendors.

JUNE JAMBOREE – Back by popular demand after missing the past two years, June Jamboree features family fun, games, food, and entertainment. Date and times are not nailed down yet; but, will be announced later through the Borough website, Facebook social media, and the May issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* newsletter.

FARM-TO-SQUARE – This annual town favorite will be held on Thursday, Aug. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. It's our end-of-summer blow-out event, featuring local famers and their market goods, wineries and breweries, activities for children, live music and more.

HERITAGE DAY – Cancelled last year due to the COVID pandemic, OBPA has begun planning the 29th Orwigsburg Heritage Celebration, always slated for the Saturday following Labor Day. This year it will be on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS –

It seems we've just gotten over last year's Christmas and holiday season events, but residents and visitors can mark their 2021 calendar for the annual Festival of Lights celebration slated for Saturday, Dec. 4 beginning at 4:30 "on the square." This OBPA-coordinated time always brightens the festive season and puts an exclamation point on the year.

Improving our community for all

Supporting other organizations in Orwigsburg Borough, and the surrounding region is a prime part of OBPA's mission.

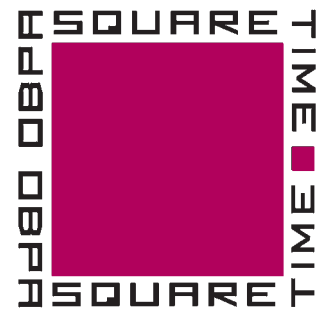
In past years, OBPA has purchased sidewalk benches and trash/recyclable containers for the Orwigsburg downtown "square." The directional wayfinding sign, located at the M&T/Community Parking Lot at Market and North Warren St. was also an OBPA project.

Last year, the organization purchased an enhanced AED unit for use by the Orwigsburg Police Department. This year it is funding tree planting downtown and assisted a local Eagle Scout project to provide quick connectors on Borough fire hydrants.

New, fresh ideas how OBPA can assist with bettering Greater Orwigsburg are invited and encouraged.

Join us! We welcome new members – existing and new businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals – who want to improve our community and economic viability.

Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday at rotating host locations. Email us at orwigsburgbusinesspa@gmail.com.



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State Sen. David Argall

Return to Civil Discourse

This month's edition of my local TV program focuses on a discussion hosted by Kutztown University students on civil discourse in politics that included me and my neighbor, Senator Judy Schwank.



**Senator
David Argall**

Whether it's Orwigsburg Borough Council, the Blue Mountain School Board, or Senate of Pennsylvania, you need to listen to many different views, including those who may not agree with you. Anytime you turn on the news, you'll see that civil discourse is often missing at all levels of government.

I can think of no better example of a community banding together in the face of a daunting issue than the successful effort to rehabilitate the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall after it was closed due to safety issues in 2010. This building is again a community gem.

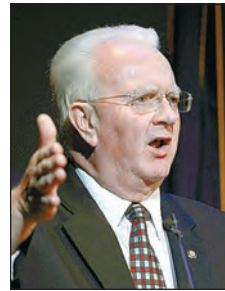
The people of Orwigsburg have proven many times before that you can work together to solve issues when they arise. I hope we can all come together during these turbulent times to build a better future for all of us!

To watch this month's edition of the Argall report, visit my website at: <https://www.senatorargall.com/argallreport/>.

State Rep. Jerry Knowles

Urban Affairs Chairman

State Speaker of the House of Representatives, Bryan Cutler, has appointed Rep. Knowles to be majority chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee for the 2021-22 session.



**Representative
Jerry Knowles**

"I look forward to the challenge of working with committee members on developing legislation that will help our municipalities create and maintain safe and vibrant places to live and work," said Knowles.

The committee reviews legislation affecting the state's largest cities, including housing, urban redevelopment, economic development, land use planning and zoning, growth management, infrastructure financing, and city services such as police, fire, sewage and water.

"This committee has been instrumental in the enactment of laws that give local governments choices and tools to deal with blighted properties," said Knowles. "Cities, boroughs and townships now have ways to ensure that responsible resident taxpayers do not lose value in their properties because of blight in the vicinity."

Knowles was sworn into office for a seventh term, representing the 124th Legislative District.

LET SOMEONE YOU TRUST PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE!

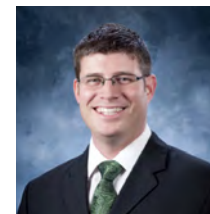
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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

It Takes a Community to Build and Support a Library!

Happy New Year! The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are over and each of us are settling into a new year - hopefully one that brings with it the safety for people to again be able to gather for celebrations, dining, and traveling.

Your Orwigsburg Library is open to the public. We welcome all to come in for book access and other services; but, COVID-19 precautions of mask wearing and social distancing are still in effect and limit our usual group dynamics.

Located at 216 W. Independence St. in Orwigsburg, it's on the ground floor of the Independence Square senior living apartment building. Open six days each week, hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Library has planned lots of upcoming activities, both in-house and "virtually," as well as around the community. Many can be done at each reader's luxury, timeframe, and comfort level.

A full listing of weekly and special activities, as

they are added, plus services can be found on the website www.OrwigsburgLibrary.org. Also, follow us on Facebook at [OrwigsburgAreaFreePublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/OrwigsburgAreaFreePublicLibrary); call 570-366-1638, or, just stop in and take a look around.

The Library offers in-house services such as computers with printing, WiFi, faxing, scanning and copying at minimal cost. It also offers e-books and curbside pick-up. Don't forget, the Library also has its own YouTube channel with lots of stories, craft projects and art instructions, offering inspiration and entertainment.

Have you checked out the 24/7 Library program Beanstack? New activities and challenges have been posted recently. Go to: <https://pottsvillelibrary.beanstack.org/>

February is Love Your Library Month! And, we love our patrons! Very special surprises are planned throughout the month. You'll have to stop in and see.

Things to look forward to

A Scavenger Hunt is in the works - details are yet to be finalized but will be announced soon.

During March, the Library will sell chances regarding its April Calendar Fundraiser. Five dollars will give you 30 chances to win!

Happy birthday, Nancy Drew! The month of April will celebrate 90 years of this classic whodunit book series.

Enjoy the coming spring! Your Library will host "Storywalks" around the community. What is a Storywalk, you ask? Pages of books have been laminated and placed on boards. Participants will walk from page to page in order to complete the story and enjoy a walk through our community. What fun!

The Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library continues to be here for the community, just as the community continues to build and support is Library. Thank you. Hope to see you at the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library soon.



Time: 9:30-3:00 Cost: \$35

Camp is for children who have completed K through 6th grade.

June 28 - July 2 Tamaqua

Lewistown Valley (near Heisler's Dairy)

July 12-16 Valley View

Valley View Park

July 19-23 Pine Grove

*Manbeck's E. C. Church, Rock
(Transportation available)*

July 26-30 Auburn

Christmas Pines Campground

Aug. 2-6 Ashland

(Higher Ups Park ~ Near the Pioneer Tunnel)

Our goal is to give every child in the area, no matter their location or situation, the opportunity to hear about Jesus through a memorable week of camp.

Contact: CEF of Schuylkill County

570-682-9790 email: cefschpa@gmail.com

Registration form~ www.cefschuylkill.com

Bring this ad to camp and receive 20 points towards the camp store.
1 per camper



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Orwigsburg Historical Society

Our Town's Past is Preserved and Revealed at OHS

The Orwigsburg Historical Society (OHS) and Museum, located at 109 E. Mifflin St., proclaims its ongoing mission is to preserve a legacy for our children.

The public is welcome to tour the facility and view its collection on Tuesday and Thursday each week from noon until 4 p.m. Arrangements for other times can be made by appointment. Contact the Society by calling 570-627-7809 or 570-366-8769 for more information regarding visits or services.



Magazine, a very popular state-wide periodical he began in 1981. His presentation focuses on 25 facts and opinions about some of our noted personalities and happenings in Pennsylvania over the past 250 years.

- Thursday, June 10 - "Schuylkill County's Backyard Archaeology & Show-and-Tell" - Schuylkill County author, archaeologist, and historian, Francis J. Burke, along with Roger Freed, archaeology enthusiast & collector, will delve into local archaeology, focusing on actual "digs" in Schuylkill County.

- Thursday, July 8 - "Schuylkill County's Railroad History" - Take a ride on the railroad history train with Matt Fisher, general manager of the Reading & Northern Railroad's Passenger Department.

- Thursday, August 12 - "Digging-Up the Past: The History & Science Behind Forensic Archaeology & Anthropology," presented by Paige Falco, forensic anthropologist & Schuylkill County Deputy Coroner.

Monthly programs are open to all

Visitors are always welcome to bring photos and items for sharing at historical society programs. The Society has announced the following monthly programs - part of its 27th annual series - "Tracing Schuylkill County's History & Heritage 2021."

All are featured on the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m., and presented at the Society in a "live audience" setting. Of course, future COVID precautions could result in postponements. Please visit and "like" the OHS on Facebook for updates.

- Thursday, April 8 - "The Art of Blacksmithing" - Blacksmith David Fisher. Learn about this oldest of professions with a truly fascinating history!

- Thursday, May 13 - "Pennsylvania's Hidden History" - Al Holliday is the publisher of Pennsylvania

Garden Tour & Tea returns

The Society is excited to announce the return of its long-awaited "Garden Tour & Tea"! Join us for an afternoon filled with beautiful, creatively-designed gardens and afternoon tea, fit for Queen Victoria. As a very special treat, one of Orwigsburg's premier historic homes will invite you into their kitchen, too! Ticket price is \$25 (just \$20 for OHS Members)!

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BE TOGETHER,
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Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

COVID could alter event schedule

As we head into a new year, virus vaccines are being distributed and administered. Optimistic hopes and desires will be that the COVID-19 virus will become less transmissible and less severe.

Organizers of church and community events are making plans for enjoyable times that we missed in 2020.

Follow local newspapers, social media, and the Borough website - Orwigsburg.gov - for changes that may need to be announced. The May issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* will also be a source of updates.

Easter egg hunt

The Easter Bunny will make a special, early visit to Orwigsburg on Saturday, March 27 for the annual egg hunt sponsored by the Orwigsburg Lions Club. The event will be held at Albright's Woods, located on Grove Street, just east of the Little League field and will begin at 12 noon.

All children from the Orwigsburg community

through the age of 10 are invited to hunt for eggs, all filled with yummy candy treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Special "prize" eggs will be part of the selection for each age group.

Council President

Moving Forward in 2021

Daily life has been turned completely upside-down over the course of this COVID-19 pandemic. It will not be transitioning back to our idea of normal anytime soon.

This virus pandemic led to months of restrictions and "stay-at-home" orders from the scientific community across the country. People were encouraged to stay at home to avoid the spread of the virus; businesses, workplaces, churches, schools, restaurants (if lucky, they could serve take-out) were all impacted; and thus further impacted each of our lives.



RICK BUBECK
Council President

Now that the vaccines have been developed, distributed, and being administered, these entities are opening back up, albeit slowly.

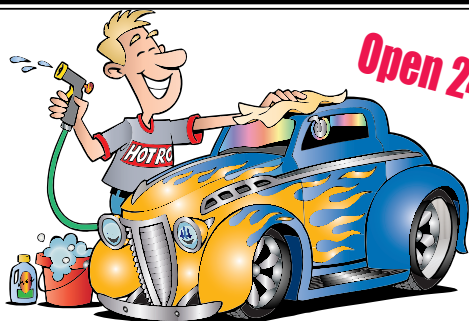
Experts still say you will need to continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing from others when in public for several months to come - even after receiving the vaccine.

On the lighter side, the coronavirus has transformed our daily thoughts and language to include new words and phrases. See if you agree ... so here we go:

Unprecedented ... You're on mute ... We're all in this together ... We'll get through it ... New normal ... Wash your hands ... Mask-up ... Zoom ... Flatten the curve ... Self-quarantine ... Contact tracing ... Social distancing ... and, Follow the science

I am sure there are many more. If you can think of any, I, for one, don't want to hear them; ever again.

"Go Phillies!"



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

This will be a B.Y.O.B. event ... Bring Your Own Basket! After the Easter egg hunt, there will be a chance to take your child's picture with the Easter Bunny. This is a free event and will be held rain or shine.

Spring/summer town-wide yard sales

A successful Orwigsburg town-wide yard sale was held this past August. This followed a one-year absence of such an event in 2019 due to lacking an organizer. The 2020 sale was organized by a group of yard sale enthusiasts, headed by resident Tammy Souder, and aided by social media promotion.

Its success will bring - not one, but - two town yard sales in 2021. Scheduled dates are Saturday, May 15 and Saturday, August 14. In the event of rain on either of these dates, the planned sales could be postponed to the following Saturday. Hours for the sales will be posted as 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

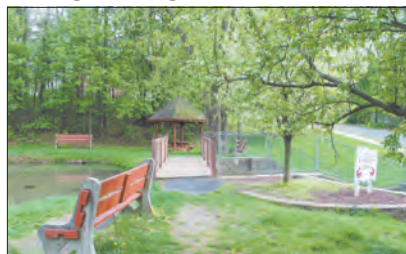
Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue

Don't forget the annual Orwigsburg Lions Club Memorial Day chicken barbecue held as part of the Memorial Day festivities on Monday, May 31.

The chicken is barbecued on the spot at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall. A full dinner is available for eating there or packaged for takeout. Tickets will be sold in advance and some will be available during the event. All proceeds are used by the Lions to sponsor local events.

Fishing Rodeo

What used to be an annual event, the Orwigsburg Children's Fishing Rodeo has been missing the past two years from the spring event schedule due to a lack of organizing volunteers.



It is tentatively on the Borough's official schedule of 2021 events with a "date to be determined" qualifier. The fishing rodeo is held at Fisher's Dam, located near S.

Washington and E. Independence streets. Previously, the dam would be stocked with fish for the event. Children, age 15 and under, were invited. Stay tuned to the Borough website or Facebook page for a date if the event will be held this year.

Anyone interested in helping to organize the event should contact Borough Hall at 570-366-3103.

Orwigsburg Kite Festival

The 5th annual Orwigsburg Kite Festival, hosted and sponsored by the Josh Rex Agency of State Farm Insurance located at 221 W. Market St. in Orwigsburg, will again take to the skies on Saturday, July 24.

Further details are yet to be announced; however,

- Continued on page 16

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7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SAT.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY: CLOSED



Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

- Continued from Page 15

an added aerial attraction this year will be an amateur drone competition, organized by Stephen Goodale of KG Projections located at 132 E. Market St. in Orwigsburg. Prizes will be awarded for the best drone photography capturing the Kite Festival activities.

Additional information will be released on Facebook social media and the May issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* newsletter.

Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry

Distribution of food for the needy from the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry, operating from St. John's UCC, 232 East Market St., will continue for the foreseeable future as a drive-thru on the third Saturday of each month. Cars are to line up on Market St to Sherman St. between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m., weather permitting. All cancellations will be announced on our Facebook page, T-102 radio station, or on the St John's UCC sign across from the church entrance. Pet food and children's books will be available as long as the supply lasts.



Non-perishables or monetary donations are always needed. Call the Pantry at 570-366-2255 for more information, need, or to help in any way.

Borough holiday schedule

Orwigsburg Borough offices/operations will close on Monday, Feb. 15 (Presidents Day); Friday, April 2 (Good Friday); and Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day).

Team Orwigsburg

Team Orwigsburg is a local faith-based mission team, currently comprised of 25 volunteer members who enjoy doing mission work in both Schuylkill County and beyond.

Last year's projects were limited due to COVID-19 precautions and concerns. Yet, Team Orwigsburg remained active, as many members simply helped a friend or neighbor on their own.

Formed 15 years ago, the group's mission statement is "healing hearts and homes" and has lived up to that by responding to natural disasters in our area (remember the flooding destruction in Pine Grove and Gilberton). Annually, except this past year, Team Orwigsburg travels out of state to help people rebuild their lives following hurricanes or other devastation.

The Team appreciates the continued support and suggestions from the greater Orwigsburg community for its mission work. Meetings have not been held during the pandemic, but the Team hopes to resume



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Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

monthly meetings again this summer.

If you would like any information or have questions, please contact Susan McCartney at 570-943-2103. Salem United Methodist Church, at South Liberty and West Independence streets, is the location of meetings.

Lions Club H.E.L.P.

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" (HELP) provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149.

Monthly large item pickup

One large item (furniture, etc.) may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month.

The collection date is the second Tuesday of each month for residents on Market Street and north ... and the Friday following the second Tuesday for residents south of Market Street.

Month	Tues.	Fri.
Feb.	9	12
Mar.	9	12
Apr.	13	16
May	11	14

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

Residents should place trash at the curb any time after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, County Waste, at 570-874-3047.

Holiday refuse/recycling collection

The Borough contracts with County Waste for the weekly collection of refuse and biweekly recycling collection. Curbside collection is on Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north ... and on Friday for properties south of Market Street.

Pickup will be delayed one day due to the Memorial Day holiday. Normal Tuesday pickup that week will be

- Continued on page 18

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It's never too early . . .

We are accepting applications now for school year 2021-2022. Our staff are busy adding names to the waiting list.

Children are selected for enrollment in April and May so don't wait and miss your opportunity.

We will also take your information for young children and contact you directly when your child is age eligible.

How about that!

Give us a call or visit our website where you can complete the enrollment information and we will contact you.

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Child Development, Inc. (Schuylkill County, PA)

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Borough Services Update . . . and Events!

- Continued from Page 17

Wednesday, June 1 and normal Friday pickup will be on Saturday, June 5.

You're invited to Public Meetings

Orwigsburg Borough Council continues to meet only once each month on the second Wednesday. Meetings are physically closed until restrictions are lifted. Council members and Borough officials "meet" remotely via internet utilizing Zoom.

The public is invited to "attend" virtually. Register by emailing a request to Borough Manager Randy Miller at rmiller@orwigsburg.gov no later than noon the day of the meeting. A return email will be sent to you with the link and related information to connect to the meeting. You will have the opportunity to submit public comment through the Zoom Q&A feature or by submitting an email prior to the meeting.

The meeting agenda will be posted no later than noon the day of the meeting at Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren St., and on the Borough's website at Orwigsburg.gov.

Declared "Snow Emergency"

Designated "Snow Emergency" routes are: all of East and West Market streets, including both sides of Centre Square; South Liberty Street from Rt. 61 to Market, North Warren Street from Market to Lehigh Avenue, and North Washington Street from the blink-

er light to the Borough line.

During a snow and/or ice event, the Mayor of Orwigsburg may declare an official "Snow Emergency." Residents will be made aware of the emergency by notice posted to the Borough website and Facebook page, through announcements on radio stations WPPA-AM and WAVT-FM, and by notice in the Republican Herald daily newspaper.

Households registered with the Borough's direct notification system - Swiftreach 911 - will receive a phone call with a pre-recorded message from the Borough, an email, or text message depending on which method was requested. If you have not already done so, add your contact information via the Swiftreach link on the home page of the Borough website: Orwigsburg.gov.

All vehicles parked on the designated "Snow Emergency" streets must be removed for a period of 24 hours once the emergency is declared or for a longer period as instructed.

Vehicles not removed, in violation of the emergency procedure, will be ticketed and will be towed. The vehicle owner is responsible for all towing costs. Ignorance of the declared emergency is not an excuse. It's your responsibility to find out.



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Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 2,000 households within the borough.

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South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing
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Ph: 570-385-3120 • Fax: 570-385-0725

E-mail: printing@southschuylkill.net
www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are
May 13, August 12, and November 4, 2021

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kathi Mengle in the borough offices, kmengle@orwigsburg.gov or call 570-366-3103 for info, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

St. Paul's Lutheran

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 215 North Warren Street, welcomes everyone to join our worship and consider becoming part of our community of faith.

Our in-person worship services are held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion is shared at worship on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month. COVID-19 precautions are observed throughout the church building. Visit our Facebook page, website, or YouTube to watch our weekly online worship. The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or call 570-366-2316. Leave a message if outside regular office hours.

We begin the season of Lent with an in-person Ash Wednesday worship service on February 17 at 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion mark this special service. Call the church office by Sunday, Feb. 14 to reserve your place at this service.

Holy Week worship begins with Palm/Passion Sun-



day on Sat., March 27 and then at both services on Sun., March 28. Join us to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as the story of his Passion.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on April 1 at 7 p.m., as we observe the events of our Lord's Last Supper. The Sacrament of our Lord's Table and the stripping of the altar are part of this special service.

We will share a Service of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness") on Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. This worship focuses on our Lord's suffering and death upon the cross for the sake of the world. During this service lighted candles are extinguished, and somber hymns are sung. We join to reflect on our need to repent of our sins.

During the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday, April 4 at 8 and 10:30 a.m., respectively, our hearts are moved from great sadness to great joy. Join us as we celebrate the timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed." Our worship is festive and joyful. It is filled with wonderful music as we gather together to share the very Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, in, with, and under the ele-

- Continued on page 20

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 North Warren Street • Orwigsburg

Office: 570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

Handicap
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In-Person
Worship Times

Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion on the first Saturday/Sunday of the month.
We observe COVID-19 precautions in the church building.*

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 17 at 7 p.m. *

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 1 at 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY – April 2 at 7 p.m.

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – EASTER

Sunday, April 4 at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. *

* Please call the church office to reserve
your place at these services

Please check out our Facebook Page,
Website, or YouTube to watch
our weekly online worship services.



St. John's United Church of Christ

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

TENEBRAE – Thurs., April 1 (6:30 p.m.)

EASTER – Sunday, April 4 (10 a.m.)

Online Worship Services at
StJohnOrwigsburg.org
Check our Facebook page, website, or
church sign for information.

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 19

ments of bread and wine. Please call our church office by Sunday, March 27 to reserve your place at our 10:30 a.m. service.

View our Facebook page and website, monthly newsletter, and weekly bulletins for additional events and activities.

Come and see. Share our worship. Join us!

St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market Street, welcomes everyone regardless of where you are on life's journey. All are welcome to attend any of the church services and activities through the Lenten and Easter season, and throughout the year.

The church welcomes Pastor Jeff Johnson, his wife Irma, and son Andrew to Orwigsburg.

During the past year with the pandemic taking center stage, St. John's has held most of its worship services online. But now we have opened the doors to anyone who feels they would like to join us for in-person worship every Sunday at 10 a.m. The online broadcast will still be available on Facebook and on our website stjohnorwigsburg.org.



St. John's has been a center for many community activities for decades and we proudly sponsor both Girl Scout and Cub Scout organizations that meet in the Fellowship Center. The church also sponsors a Diakon Senior Services exercise group, Team Orwigsburg dinners, and a women's group called Chit Chat, and the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry.

The church also hosts the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. Boxes of food are distributed to area needy families on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. Drive-thru pickups are still the norm until further notice. Distribution is made directly into the recipients' car by volunteers. Eight area churches are the sponsors, along with the Orwigsburg Lions and other civic organizations, area businesses, and private donors. Canned goods and volunteers are always needed. Call 570-366-2255 and leave a message for the food pantry if you are able to help in any way.

During the upcoming Easter season, we will offer a Service of Tenebrae on Thurs.,

April 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Easter Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

Salem United Methodist Church



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upcoming opportunities for special
church services and community events**

www.SalemUM.com

is your best source for current church news.

Bible Study Opportunities - See Church Web Page

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BLESSING our wider community



**ZION'S
RED CHURCH**

**1287 Centre Turnpike
Orwigsburg**

www.zionsredchurch.com

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February 14 - Bible Study Begins - 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Church History

February 17 - Ash Wednesday Service - 7 p.m.

Zion's Red Church

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7 p.m.

Frieden's Luth. Church, New Ringgold

April 2 - Good Friday Service - 2:30 p.m.

Frieden's Luth. Church, New Ringgold

April 3 - Easter Vigil - 6 p.m. @ Frieden's Lutheran

April 4 - Easter Sunday w/ Communion, 10:30 a.m.

Zion's Red Church

Online worship experiences available

See our article for more details!

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches



Faith Church

Hello Schuylkill County! It is with great joy that we at Faith Church, 1168 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61) next to Ark Rentals, welcome you to 2021.

We're sure your times have been trying during the past year. It's been a time when our country has been challenged at many levels and the pandemic has literally changed our lives.

A reasonable question would be, "Will life ever return to what we knew as normal?" Well, what to expect for society and the future is unknown to mankind. But what we do know is that God is in control.

I'm pastor Doug Cresswell. History, is His-Story! I am convinced and comfortable about God's leading, it has brought extreme peace to my life. I hope you can share in that hope.

We at Faith Church are excited to be back meeting again on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Extreme measures have been taken to ensure your safety if you would like to worship in-person. Every other row of seating has been removed to allow for comfortable distancing and we require you to sanitize your hands upon entry and exit and to please wear a mask while moving about in our buildings.

Those who fall in the more vulnerable categories for infection may want to continue to stay home, so we have developed a LiveStream online viewing of our service on our web-site atfaithchurch.com.

Coming in the next few weeks, a "special" outreach - Pastor Doug's Virtual VIPs - for those staying safe at home will receive separate communications from Pastor Doug immediately following the Sunday service and be invited to a virtual 10 minute weekly study. Anyone can join this group by tuning in to the Sunday LiveStream, then sending in your email address requesting to be a part of the VIP team.

On Sunday, April 4 at 10 a.m., we will celebrate Easter at Faith Church. We expect to still be under guidelines as we celebrate and offer Communion.

Multiple group meetings are held each week and open for participation. We have all age groups of children and youth ministries available and we would love and welcome your family to worship with us.

Faith Church is a "No Judgement Zone" where you will be loved. It is not our job on this earth to judge you. God calls us to "love one another" and that is exactly what we do.

We are an imperfect church, filled with imperfect people, led by an imperfect pastor. If you are imperfect, you will fit right in and be loved at Faith.

Salem UMC

Salem United Methodist Church - where Liberty and Independence meet - offers three unique services each Sunday with a traditional worship at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary worship at 10:45 a.m. and the SNL Coffee-house at 6:30 p.m. A paid nursery attendant is on staff from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The church is accessible to the physically challenged through ramps and a chairlift.



Both Sunday morning services are live-streamed on Facebook at [SalemChurchOrwigsburg](https://www.facebook.com/SalemChurchOrwigsburg) and also uploaded to Facebook and our website www.SalemUMC.com every week for viewing at your convenience.

Some worship normalcies and other church activities may be suspended temporarily due to changes in recommended COVID-19 precautions. The church website is maintained regularly and is the best source

- Continued on page 22

FAITH CHURCH

loving God - loving people - serving the community

Senior Pastor Doug Cresswell

1168 Centre Turnpike

(next to Ark Rentals)

Orwigsburg, PA 17961

570-366-5131

Online Service

Available

Weekly
Celebration
Service

Sunday 10 a.m.

www.atfaithchurch.com



A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

- Continued from Page 21

to verify changes to events, services access, and procedures.

Social distancing, hand hygiene, and mask-wearing is observed. Currently, in-person worship is limited to a total of 35 people in the sanctuary. Small group meetings are limited to 15 people.

Zion's Red Church

Welcome to Zion's Red Church, the oldest congregation located in the heart of southern Schuylkill County. We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ, located at 1287 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61). Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Ken Melber, Jr.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, we are called to remember our own mortality and the gift of life we are given by God. During the week leading up to Easter, we remember the last week of Jesus' earthly life - His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These services are the most important worship services in the Christian calendar.

The services for the Easter season are held with



the combined congregations of Frieden's Lutheran Church in New Ringgold and Zion's Red Church, Orwigsburg. Pastor Melber serves both congregations each Sunday and has a live stream on Facebook at 9 a.m. from Frieden's and 10:30 a.m. from Zion's. On Easter Sunday there will be a service with Holy Communion at each service.

Ever wonder just where the books of the Bible came from? Ever wonder why there are 200 different Christian denominations in the United States? Ever wonder what makes your church's witness so special? Join Pastor Ken for Bible Study February 14 to March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. immediately following morning worship. Snacks will be provided and all are welcome to attend.

Contact our church office at (570) 366-1178 for any information about Sunday services, Bible study sessions, church rental spaces, or other events. Find us online at zionsredchurch.com or join our Facebook page.

LiveStreams and other online resources can be found at the website for Friedens Lutheran Church, our sister congregation, at NRLP.ORG. See the right panel for links. We would love to meet you and have you worship with us Sunday mornings.

Kimmels Church

This past year has brought a lot of changes to the way we think, act and feel overall. Our views on politics, journalists, big corporations, social media companies, and government as a whole have been affected.

Many people no longer know who or what they can trust. For nearly one year we have kept people, even some of the ones we love the most, at a distance. Relationships have been broken, fear is growing, and uncertainty of the future is at an all-time high.

One question many are asking themselves, "Where is Jesus in all of this?" Most people have a picture of who Jesus is. This picture is often developed by what



Kimmels Church

179 Pine Creek Drive • Orwigsburg, PA

Join Us!

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays, 6:30 pm
In-Person & Virtual Classes

Easter Egg Hunt
Palm Sunday, March 28 - 3:00 pm

Good Friday Service
April 2 - 6:30 pm

Easter Worship Services - April 4
Sunrise Service - 6:30 am
Two Morning Worship Services - 8 am & 10:15 am

Join us on Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10 am
In-Person & Live Stream on FB



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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

we've been taught or experienced in our lives. If our lives seem to be going well, we can often forget about Jesus.

But, when our lives are being tossed back-and-forth by hard circumstances, we wonder where he is. It causes us to question what we have been taught about the goodness of Jesus. These experiences distort our idea of who Jesus truly is.

At Kimmels Church, 179 Pine Creek Drive just off Kimmels Road on the eastern side of Orwigsburg, our desire is to help you have a clear picture of who Jesus is. When we allow the Bible to shape that understanding, our view of Him will not be distorted by the circumstances around us. Instead, those same circumstances will help us come to experience firsthand who Jesus is and confirm what the Bible says.

We invite you, in-person or live on Facebook, to our new sermon series "The Rediscovered Jesus" every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Through the gospel of John, we will rediscover who Jesus truly is, not what the world would have us believe.

Jesus is God. Jesus is in search of you. Jesus gives life when you believe in Him. Jesus wants His life in you to be your priority. Our theme verse for this series is John 20:31, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that

by believing you may have life in his name."

We also invite you to all our Easter services and events. On Palm Sunday, join us for service at 10 a.m., followed by our annual Community-wide Easter egg hunt at 3 p.m. There will be great fun with games, food, and thousands of filled Easter eggs. Bring the whole family. The hunt is available for children, birth through 10 years old. Who knows, you may

walk away with some great prizes, too!

Our Good Friday service will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 2. Easter will offer a sunrise service at our Chapel on the Hill at 6:30 a.m. Our planned Easter services will be held at 8 and 10:15.

More information about these and other events and activities at Kimmels Church can be found on our website kimmelschurch.org or contact the church office during the week at 570-943-2759.



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What to Do About Feral Cat Populations?

“Feel Good” Caring for a Furry Visitor Not Best

Many Americans support programs to protect wild cats in our midst. But, supporting a feral cat population in your town neighborhood ... or even undertaking a humane trap, neuter, and release program ... may not be in your community's best interest.

Feral, free-roaming cats have been documented by dozens of studies to be indiscriminate killers of wildlife. Outdoor cats have also been known to carry a dangerous parasite that has been linked to schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, memory loss and learning problems. Cats kept primarily indoors were not considered to be part of these problems.

Birds and bats are major consumers of mosquitos. Some songbirds eat up to 300 insects per day in summer months. By taking out birds and bats, feral cats may contribute to increased rates of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases.

Food left out for feral cats likely feeds other nocturnal scavengers, such as rats, insects, raccoons, or possums. People caring for feral cats should leave food out only during the morning to avoid supporting other unwanted wildlife.

Trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs aim to humanely reduce feral cat populations by trapping cats, sterilizing them by spay/neuter in a safe and humane way, then releasing them back into the neighborhoods where they were trapped.



In theory, by limiting cat reproduction, these programs reduce the growth of feral populations without having to euthanize any kitties. TNR efforts give the appearance of responsible community action; but, studies have indicated 70% or more of outdoor cats would need to be sterilized to overcome the rate at which new kittens are born into the feral population. Typical TNR efforts fall far short of that mark.

Your indoor cat is probably innocent when it comes to the risks outdoor cats pose for wildlife and human health. If you are determined to let your outdoor cat roam, putting a bell around its neck can decrease, but not eliminate, its hunting success, experts say.

So, what's the solution?

For all the dreary, failed attempts at feral control across the mainland United States, outdoor cats in Hawaii may have found their haven. In 2006, billionaire Larry Ellison bought most of a small island near Maui and had it converted to a cat kingdom.

Lana'i is now home to 600 free-roaming felines and hosts 10,000 visitors each year. Upon arrival, cats are microchipped, vaccinated and spayed or neutered. The sanctuary is monitored by veterinarians, supported by donations from around the world and operates under a mission statement of “removing all free-roaming cats from the landscape.”